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09/873,653	06/04/2001	Douglas Gerald Dunlap	10002842-1	4264

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EXAMINER

HUNTSINGER, PETER K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 3, 5-13, 16-18, and 21-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 3, 5-13, 16-18, and 21-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Neuhard et al. Patent 6,335,795.

Referring to claims 11, 18, and 28, Neuhard et al. disclose a method and a program for selecting a printer from a plurality of printers to fulfill a print job of a user, comprising: registering a printing capability of the printers (col. 13, lines 13-17) with a printer selection system controller (computers 4a, 4b, and 4c of Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 8-11); receiving a print request for the print job and a data file (col. 5, lines 38-44) from the user at the printer selection system controller (col. 15, lines 39-42); determining via the printer selection system controller which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job, including comparing the print request and the data file for the print job

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with the printing capability of the printers (col. 15, lines 9-19); compiling a list of at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job as determined by comparing the print request and the data file for the print job with the printing capability of the printers (col. 15, lines 9-19); presenting the list of the at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job to the user (col. 15, lines 39-49); and after presenting the list to the user, receiving a printer selection for the print job from the user at the printer selection system controller, wherein the printer selection includes a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the printers (col. 15, lines 39-49).

Referring to claim 3, Neuhard et al. disclose linking the user and the printer selection system controller via a communication link, wherein the step of presenting the list includes presenting the list of the at least one of the printers to the user via the communication link (monitors 14a, 14b, and 14c of Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 11-16).

Referring to claim 5, Neuhard et al. disclose linking the user and the printer selection system controller via a communication link, wherein the step of receiving the printer selection includes receiving the printer selection for the print job from the user via the communication link (input devices 12a, 12b, and 12c of Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 11-16).

Referring to claims 6, 16, and 29, Neuhard et al. disclose distributing the print request to the selected printer (col. 15, lines 48-49).

Referring to claim 7, Neuhard et al. disclose linking the printers and the printer selection system controller via a communication link (network 8 of Fig. 1, col. 3, lines

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60-65), wherein the step of distributing the print request includes distributing the print request to the selected printer via the communication link (col. 15, lines 48-49).

Referring to claims 8 and 17, Neuhard et al. disclose presenting to the user a user interface including at least one input field representing at least one option for the print job, wherein the step of receiving the print request includes receiving at least one attribute for the print job as specified with the at least one input field of the user interface (col. 15, lines 9-19).

Referring to claims 9 and 27, Neuhard et al. disclose wherein the step of receiving the print request includes receiving at least one of a number of copies, a print medium, a printing quality option, a printing layout, a color printing option, a finishing option, a printer location, a printing priority, and an archive option for the print job (col. 15, lines 9-19).

Referring to claim 10, Neuhard et al. disclose linking the user and the printer selection system controller via a communication link, wherein the step of receiving the print request includes receiving the print request for the print job from the user via the communication link. It is inherent that the computer of Neuhard et al. includes a bus that is a communication link for the computer components.

Referring to claims 12 and 24, Neuhard et al. disclose linking the printers and the printer selection system controller via a communication link (network 8 of Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 60-65), wherein the step of registering the printing capability includes registering the printing capability of the printers with the printer selection system controller via the communication link (col. 13, lines 13-17).

Referring to claims 13 and 25, Neuhard et al. disclose wherein the step of registering the printing capability includes registering at least one of an identification, a print medium capability, a print quality capability, a printing layout capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, a printing speed, a printer queue, and an archive printing capability of the printers (col. 8, lines 18-30).

Referring to claim 21, Neuhard et al. disclose a communication link configured to link the printer selection system controller and the user, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive the print request for the print job from the user via the communication link and present the list of the at least one of the printers to the user via the communication link. It is inherent that the computer of Neuhard et al. includes a bus that is a communication link for the computer components.

Referring to claim 22, Neuhard et al. disclose wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive a printer selection for the print job from the user (col. 15, lines 39-49), the printer selection including a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the printers, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to distribute the print request for the print job to the selected printer (col. 15, lines 48-49).

Referring to claim 23, Neuhard et al. disclose a communication link configured to link the printer selection system controller and the printers, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to distribute the print request for the print job to the selected printer via the communication link (network 8 of Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 60-65).

Referring to claim 26, Neuhard et al. disclose a user interface including at least one input field representing at least one option for the print job, wherein the user

interface includes at least one of a number of copies, a print medium, a printing quality option, a printing layout, a color printing option, a finishing option, a printer location, a printing priority, and an archive field (col. 15, lines 9-19).

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter K. Huntsinger whose telephone number is (571)272-7435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

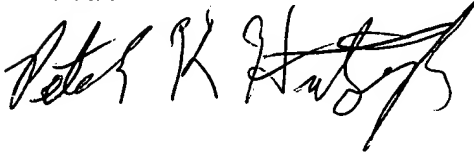
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on (571)272-7471. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PKH



KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER